

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-32 were pending in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 5, 28, 30, and 32 were objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 11-15, 18, 20, 22, 27, and 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Redmond et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,015,197 (hereinafter "Redmond").

Claims 4, 7, 8, 10, and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond.

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 16, 17, 19, and 21. Applicant expressly reserves the right to rewrite claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 in independent form, incorporating original claim 1 and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 5, 28, 30, and 32 to address the Examiner's objection, substituting the language "capable of" for the language "can be." Claims 1 and 32 have been amended to more particularly define the present invention. Claims 22 and 26 have been amended to conform with the amendment to claim 1. New claims 33 and 34 have been added. Support for new claim 33 can be found at least in connection with applicant's FIGS. 9a, 9b, 19, 38, and 39 and their respective descriptions. Support for new claim 34 can be found at least in connection with applicant's FIGS. 9a-11, 19, 38, and 39 and their respective descriptions.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a Petition for a two-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action are being filed concurrently herewith.

The Examiner's claim rejections under sections 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed.

The Claim Rejections

The Examiner contends that applicant's claim 1 is anticipated by Redmond. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection, and submits that Redmond does not show or suggest all the features of applicant's claim 1. However, to facilitate prosecution, applicant has amended claim 1 to more particularly define the present invention and to further distinguish the claimed invention from Redmond.

Applicant's amended claim 1 is directed to an electrical cable assembly for establishing an electrical connection with a mating conductor. The electrical cable assembly includes a weave of a portion of at least one conductor and a portion of a plurality of loading fibers. "Upon sliding the mating conductor relative to said weave to establish the electrical connection, at least some of said plurality of loading fibers are tensioned, thereby delivering a contact force at each contact point of said at least one conductor."

Another portion of the at least one conductor includes at least a portion of a cable conductor. Thus, the at least one conductor of applicant's claim 1 is integral to both the woven connector portion of the assembly and the cable portion of the assembly. This integration eliminates the need to couple the connector portion to a separate cable, thereby avoiding the signal degradation that may result from such coupling (see, for example, page 41, lines 5-14 and page 42, lines 3-8 of applicant's specification).

Redmond discloses various embodiments of electrical connectors and cables that place conductive strands in bending or compression as they are engaged with mating connectors.

While contact forces are created between conductors in Redmond, these forces are not provided by filaments 57, let alone by tensioning the filaments as set forth in applicant's amended claim 1. Rather, as shown in FIGS. 12-14 of Redmond, contact forces are provided at contact points 60 when the elements of cable 70 are sandwiched and compressed between housing 78 and board 100. This compressive force contrasts with the tensioning of applicant's loading fibers, which results from sliding the mating conductor relative to the weave of applicant's electrical connector. Accordingly, Redmond does not show or suggest that, "upon sliding the mating conductor relative to said weave to establish the electrical connection, at least some of said plurality of loading fibers are tensioned, thereby delivering a contact force at each contact point of said at least one conductor," as set forth in applicant's amended claim 1.

Thus, at least for this reason, applicant's claim 1 is not anticipated by Redmond, and the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. Applicant's amended claim 32 similarly recites that, "upon sliding said mating conductor relative to said weave to establish said electrical connection, at least some of said plurality of loading fibers are tensioned, thereby delivering a contact force at said at least one contact point of each said conductor." Accordingly, the rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn for at least the same reason as applicant's amended claim 1. In addition, dependent claims 2-31 are allowable at least because independent claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections of these claims are moot, and the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn.

New Claims 33 and 34

Applicant's new claim 33 is directed to an electrical cable connector assembly that includes a weave having a plurality of loading fibers and a portion of at least one conductor. The plurality of loading fibers are adapted to provide a contact force at contact points between at least

one conductor and a mating conductor "as at least some of said plurality of loading fibers are tensioned." The contact force is substantially dependent upon a force applied from the tensioned loading fibers, and is substantially independent of any bending or compression of the conductor. Another portion of the at least one conductor includes at least a portion of a cable conductor.

Applicant submits that new claim 33 is allowable over the art of record, and in particular Redmond, at least because the contact forces of Redmond are provided through either bending or compression of the conductive wires, and not through tensioning of the filaments.

Applicant's new claim 34 is directed to an electrical cable connector assembly that includes a weave having a plurality of loading fibers each anchored at a first and second anchor point. A portion of at least one conductor is woven with the plurality of loading fibers to form the weave. At least some of the loading fibers are adapted to provide contact forces at contact points between the at least one conductor and a mating conductor as the plurality of loading fibers are tensioned substantially evenly from the first anchor point to the second anchor point upon displacement of the plurality of loading fibers during engagement of the weave and mating conductor. Another portion of the at least one conductor includes at least a portion of a cable conductor.

Applicant submits that new claim 34 is allowable over the art of record, and in particular Redmond, at least because Redmond fails to disclose loading fibers of a weave that provide contact forces as the loading fibers are tensioned substantially evenly from a first anchor point to a second anchor point. In Redmond, in contrast, applicant's understanding is that the filaments are compressed, and not tensioned substantially evenly from a first anchor point to a second anchor point as set forth in applicant's claim 34.

Conclusion

The foregoing demonstrates that claims 1-34 are patentable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

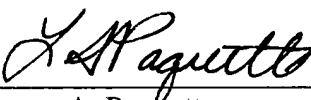
Authorization

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Reply, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Director is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,
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